

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 remain present in this application.

The abstract, specification, and claim 1 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

It is noted that a Revocation of Power of Attorney, Substitute Power of Attorney, and Change in Correspondence Address, as well as a Certificate Under 37 CFR § 3.73(b) Showing Chain of Title, are being submitted concurrently herewith. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office enter the change in power of attorney and correspondence address, to ensure that future correspondence is forwarded to the undersigned.

In accordance with the Examiner's request, the undersigned confirms that claims 1-8 were elected, with traverse, on August 14, 2003.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the specification has been corrected to refer to ports 130a and 130b, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are therefore respectfully requested.

The abstract and claims stand objected to for certain informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that these objections have been addressed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the abstract and claims are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the phrase "second memory management device" has been amended to --memory management device--, it is respectfully submitted that all claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the instant invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by BHARDWAJ, U.S. Patent 5,274,631. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant wishes to clarify some of the key points disclosed in the present invention. In the present invention, the first memory device for storing the source address and associated messages of the network packets is managed by the switch device, wherein the switch device creates the source address and associated messages of the network ports, and the destination address and associated messages of the network port for the network packets in accordance with the contents of the first memory device.

However, the system processor disclosed in column 4, line 40 - column 5, line 36 of BHARDWAJ, for example, checks every packet processor to find out the destination address of a network packet without a correct destination address, and broadcasts the network

packet to each packet processor if the system processor cannot find the destination address in one of the packet processors. The system processor does not have a central memory device similar to the first memory device of the present invention for storing the source address and associated messages of every network packet, thus the system processor has to search the memory of each packet processor. The switch device of the present invention can fasten the speed of finding source and destination addresses of the network packets by only search the content of the first memory device.

Furthermore, the switch device performs central management such as initiation, aging, routing learning, routing selection, and processing arbitrating for the content of the memory device. The aging module of the switch device attenuates the expiry of the contents of the first memory device in order to maintain the most recent contents. This is different to the FIFO buffers for packet transmission described in column 16, lines 12-53 of BHARDWAJ. The input and output FIFO buffers are irrelevant to the content of the memory and hence these buffers cannot perform the aging operation disclosed in the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present application are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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